

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of the office action dated December 11, 2007, and completion of the personal interview of January 15, 2008. The Examiner's observations and suggestions are much appreciated and summarized herein. Claims 1-14 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 10/394,973 which was filed on March 21, 2003. Withdrawal of this rejection is requested, as Applicant is submitting a terminal disclaimer signed by an Attorney of Record of this application.


Claims 1, 4-8, 11-15, 18-22, and 25-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No 2003/0142345 to Bunn et al. (*hereinafter*, "Bunn") in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0137954 to Yokoyama (*hereinafter*, "Yokoyama"). Claims 10 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Bunn in view of Yokoyama as applied to Claims 1, 8, and 22, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,924,826 to Nakagiri et al. (*hereinafter*, "Nakagiri").

Claims 2, 3, 9, 16, 17, and 23 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of claims 2, 9, 16, and 23, respectively. Claims 3-8, 10-14, 17-21, and 24-28 depend from claims 1, 8, 15, and 22 and add further limitations thereto. As such, all pending claims should be in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees necessitated by the foregoing communication, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 66329/00239.

Date: 1-17-08

Respectfully submitted,

  
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